Package programme for Kachch-Saurashtra region of Gujarat

634. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since worked out any comprehensive and well-integrated package of programme to deal with special problems of the Kachch-Saurashtra region, particularly the regional disparity in the economic development;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the specific steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (c) No specific programme has been worked out to deal with special problems of Kutch-Saurashtra region of Gujarat. However, Government of India is implementing various schemes in different States/Union Territories including Gujarat for overall development of the country. Government of India with participation of State Governments is implementing programmes such as Integrated Rural Development Programme, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Employment Assurance Scheme, Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment, Indira Awas Yojana, Million Wells Scheme, Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, etc. Gujarat is also a beneficiary of Border Area Development Programme, which is being implemented in States having International Borders. In addition to these schemes, Government of Gujarat also implements various socio-economic programmes under Tribal Sub-Plan for which Special Central Assistance is provided to the State.

EAS in Madhya Pradesh

635. SHRI LAKKHIRAM AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the Employment Assurance Scheme;

(b) whether Government have extended the Scheme to rural areas of Madhya Pradesh which are very backward;

(c) if so, the progress made in implementing the scheme; and

(d) if not, by when Governmet propose to extend the scheme in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) The salient features of the EAS is given statement (*see* below)

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The scheme has been extended to 394 blocks of the State out of the total of 459 blocks. The remaining blocks will be covered under the scheme during 1997-98. The State Government has utilised Rs. 58.54 crores against availability of Rs. 219.50 crores during the current year generating 97.22 lakh mandays (upto August, 1996).

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

The Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) was introduced w.e.f. 2.10.1993 in the rural areas to provide assured employment of 100 days of unskilled manual work to the rural poor who are in need of employment during the lean agricultural season. The secondary objective of the scheme is creation of economic infrastructure and community assets for sustained employment generation. The scheme is being implemented in 3206 blocks of the country and it is being extended to another 1123 blocks of the country during the current year.